(a) whether the inhabitants of Chalakkal village in Trichur Taluk had not petitioned the Government to have a sluice put in "ചെമ്മാടി തോട" in their village;

(b) has the Government inquired into the matter and with what result?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—(a) Yes. They had petitoned the Panchayat.

(b) Yes. As the work is a special one under the Panchayat Finance Rules, the beneficiaries have to contribute half the cost. The petitioners seem to be unwilling to do so. The matter was, therefore, not considered.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Has any inquiry been conducted in this matter of putting up a sluice?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—Yes. They conducted the enquiry and found that this sluice is a special work which requires contribution from the parties.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Has the Government come to know that it is an absolutely useful piece of work.

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—They have come to know that it is a desirable and useful piece of work.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—What is the amount to be spent upon its construction?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—Sorry, I have not got the exact figures.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Is there any rule which prevents the Government from putting up the sluice without the contribution of the public, if it is found to be a necessary work?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—The rule lays down that in works of this kind half the contribution should be paid by the few interested parties and if they are not willing to do it to attend to other works which will be useful.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Am I to understand that unless the petitioners are prepared to contribute half the amount to be spent upon that scheme they are to go without it?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—Certainly they will have to wait till all the others are disposed of.

Panchayats—Vadakkancheri.

177. Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(1) Whether all the six (group) Panchayats which take in the nineteen villages forming the Vadakkancheri Constituency were working during the first ten months of the year 1106;

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(2) if some of them were not working, from what date did each of them cease to work, and for what reason or reasons;

(3) are there not statutory provisions which would avoid if timely action is taken, such long interregnums;

(4) if there are, why where they not adopted;

(5) are all or any of these invested with judicial powers;

(6) were any budget proposals relating to those in abeyance received by the Superintendent of Agriculture or the Registrar of Panchayats;

(7) if received, who sent them;

(8) if not recived, are any provisions made in the budget of 1107 relating to such Panchayats except those of a recurring nature?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—(1) Yes, except Vellattanjur and Choondal for a portion of the period.

(2) It is not possible to furnish exact dates. The Vellattanjur Panchayat was, and the Choondal Panchayat is, under reconstitution.

(3) There are provisions; but sometimes it may not be possible to avoid some delays.

(4) They have been adopted.

(5) Yes. One (Choondal).

(6) The budget of Vellattanjur was not received; but that of Coondal was.

(7) The President.

(8) Yes.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Are there no provisions with regard to the meetings that they are to hold?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—Yes, there is provision.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—And do they record the proceedings of the meetings?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—They do record the proceedings of meetings.

Mr. P. Krishna menon.—The date of the last meeting held will be known if the records are perused.

Rama Varhma Tampuran.—The question is from what date did each of them cease to work. To hold meetings is not the only function of a Panchayat. It is not possible to give the exact date.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Is it not a rule that Panchayat invested with judicial powers are to hold weekly meetings for the disposal of civil cases?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—I do not remember the exact period when they have to hold meetings, but they are to do it periodically.

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Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—And in the case of the Choondal Panchayat when was the last court held?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—In the Choondal Panchayat I think, the last court was held on the 16th Kumbham 1106.

Road from Eroor to Vyttila.

178. Mr. P. Raman Menon.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(1) what action has been taken up-to-date with reference to the opening of a road from Eroor to Vyttila road *via* Kaniampuzha ferry;

(2) is the Government in receipt of a petition, dated 5th Mithunam 1106 from Mr. Kayyil Kesavan Nayar and large number of people belonging to Eroor and the adjoining villages praying for the speedy opening of this road.

(3) has the Government taken any action on this petition?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—The road has two sections. The first section is to the east of the Kaniyampuzha ferry and the second section is to the west. Lands for the second section have been acquired and the road is being laid. Work in the first section is postponed for want of funds.

(2) Yes.

(3) There are two requests in the petition, *viz.*, (1) opening of the Eroor road mentioned above (2) metalling the Eroor-Puthenkulangara road. In regard to the 1st request please see the answer to one above. The 2nd request is under consideration.

Nandyolath chal—fishing.

179. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Nandyolath chal in the Nandipulam Village was auctioned by Government for fishing;

(2) if so, when was it done last and the amount realised;

(3) whether it was used to be auctioned before 1105.

(4) if so when:

(5) the extent of land to which the water of this chal is used;

(6) whether the Village Panchayat objected to this;

(7) if so what was their report;

(8) whether the people of the locality have objected, what were the final orders passed by the Diwan Peishkar on this matter?

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—(1) No. It was proposed to be leased to some Kanakkans by the Tahsildar of Mukundapuram. His proposal has not been accepted.

(2) Not leased at any time.

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